



Agenda Item 2

**METROPOLITAN
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Deputy Executive Director, Policy

**Legislation Committee
February 8, 2008
Minutes**

Vice Chair Yeager called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. Committee members in attendance: Chu, Dodd, Giacomini, Haggerty, Halsted, Lempert, Spering, Worth. Additional commissioners in attendance: Bates, Tissier.

Minutes

Minutes of the Jan. 11 meeting were approved after a motion by Commissioner Chu, seconded by Commissioner Worth.

Legislative History

Ellen Griffin distributed copies of the Feb. 5 edition of the history and reviewed bills of particular interest to the committee.

Randy Rentschler distributed a memorandum about the State/Local Partnership program as included in Proposition 1B, and per recent discussion in Sacramento on SB 748 (Corbett). Using a matrix, he outlined options for the Bay Area to maximize its share of monies from the program and engaging other state legislators on a unified front. He noted how the region helps itself financially more than the rest of the state does. Commissioner Dodd said that he supported the idea of tolls making counties whole, and also bill language to accommodate sales tax counties, and maybe even be an incentive for counties to become sales tax counties sooner than later. Commissioner Lempert was concerned about Samtrans and Caltrain, dependent as they are on sales taxes from three separate counties, and not having access to independent revenue sources such as from property taxes. After further discussion, the committee reached general consensus favoring the matrix's "return-to-source with sales taxes and tolls" allocation scenario (column 4), giving Mr. Rentschler direction as he works with local partners.

Legislative Visits to Sacramento and DC

Sacramento - Ms. Griffin said the 2008 briefings might need to be an "MTC only year," due to significant challenges matching times on MTC's calendar with those of CTC Director Barna and Caltrans Director Kempton. She said the date remained in flux but eliminated Feb. 21.

Washington - Logistics for the annual DC trip, this year on Mar. 10-12, will require Legislation Committee Chair Rubin and Commission Chair Dodd to stay on the hill an extra day in anticipation of members having to reschedule meetings at the last minute. Commissioner Chu offered his availability if needed. He added that March 11 is designated by the National League of Cities as "Hill Day." In response to Commissioner Yeager, it was agreed that APTA registration was unnecessary for all commissioners in attendance.

Freeway Performance Initiative

Mr. Rentschler sought permission to add an item to MTC's 2008 Legislative Program for including an effort to increase the existing \$1 fee per registered vehicle in the Bay Area. He said the fee had not increased since 1986, and by now had lost nearly half its value. He said that since MTC's recent adoption of its 2008 Legislative Program he learned of legislative interest from some staff in Sacramento about the fee. The fee, if increased, could not only ensure that all current activities are sustained but would allow a modest beginning toward implementing MTC's proposed freeway performance initiative that is considered the most cost-effective strategy being evaluated in MTC's long-range plan to reduce traffic congestion and minimize the impact of traffic incidents. With a motion by Commissioner Worth and a second by Commissioner Chu that MTC's 2008 Legislative Program be amended to include an effort to increase the vehicle license fee for SAFE (Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways), the matter was unanimously referred to the Commission.

Tom Bulger's Report

Mr. Bulger's report was received by the committee. As information, Mr. Rentschler distributed a memorandum to update the committee on the proposed FY 2009 federal budget.

Other Business/Public Comment/Adjourn

There was no other business or public comment. The next meeting was scheduled for Mar. 14, 2008. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.